1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS		
2	HOUSTON DIVIS	HOUSTON DIVISION	
3			
4	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)	SDIMINAL ACTION NO	
5	 	CRIMINAL ACTION NO. 4:22-CR-367	
6	ISAAC AMBE NFORMANGUM) 1	TIME	
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8	SUPPRESSION HE		
9	BEFORE THE HONORABLE LEE H. ROSENTHAL UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE OCTOBER 23, 2023		
10	APPEARANCES:		
11			
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22	ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Gregory Brown		
23	Ms. Yolonda Cole Mr. Isaac Nformangum		
24			
25	Proceedings recorded by mechanical st produced by computer.	enography, transcript	

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1	PROCEEDINGS
3:31:49 2	THE COURT: Good afternoon. Is the defendant present?
3:31:52 3	MR. LANDERS: Right here, Your Honor.
3:31:53 4	THE COURT: Have him come on up.
3:32:06 5	Go ahead and state your appearances, and then you may
6	be seated.
3:32:08 7	MR. BENNETT: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Rick
8	Bennett, Ms. Yolonda Cole, along with Agent Brown.
3:32:15 9	MR. CHERNOFF: Your Honor, Ed Chernoff for Isaac
3:32:1710	THE COURT: You need to use the microphone, please.
3:32:1711	MR. CHERNOFF: Ed Chernoff for Isaac Nformangum, and,
12	also, Jonathan Landers.
3:32:2113	THE COURT: All right. We're here on an evidentiary
14	hearing on a motion to suppress. Go ahead.
3:32:2715	MR. BENNETT: Your Honor, the government calls Agent
16	Greg Brown.
3:32:3017	THE COURT: Do you want to go first?
3:32:3218	MR. LANDERS: Well, probably so, Judge. And, also,
19	before we begin, if it's okay with the Court, we've got an
20	agreement on preadmitting exhibits, if that's okay with you.
3:32:3921	THE COURT: Good. I have 12 exhibits.
3:32:4222	MR. BENNETT: And one of those, No. 6, I pulled it out
23	upon agreement of the parties.
3:32:4624	THE COURT: All right. I see it.
3:32:4825	All right.

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13:32:49 1	MR. LANDERS: And then from
13:32:49 2	THE COURT: Any objection to any of those?
13:32:51 3	MR. LANDERS: No, not to theirs, Your Honor.
13:32:53 4	THE COURT: All right. They're all admitted.
13:32:54 5	MR. LANDERS: And then for the defense, we've got
6	Defense Exhibit 1, which are admonishment forms, and we did file
7	an exhibit list this morning, Your Honor.
13:33:04 8	THE COURT: I don't have it, I don't think.
13:33:07 9	MR. LANDERS: I have a copy of it here.
13:33:0810	THE CASE MANAGER: It should be in the very front of
11	the book, but you don't have their exhibits.
13:33:1212	THE COURT: All right. I've got it. Thank you. So
13	these are all admitted by agreement?
13:33:18 14	MR. BENNETT: Yes, Your Honor.
13:33:1915	MR. LANDERS: One, 2, and 3.
13:33:2016	THE COURT: Got it. Okay.
13:33:2417	MR. LANDERS: And then with that
13:33:2518	MR. CHERNOFF: Judge, it is our burden. So we'd like
19	to begin.
13:33:2920	THE COURT: That's fine. Go ahead.
13:33:3121	MR. CHERNOFF: For purposes of this hearing, Judge,
22	we're going to call Isaac Nformangum to testify.
13:33:3723	Isaac?
13:33:3924	Stand up, raise your right and be sworn.
13:33:4325	THE COURT: Take the witness stand, yes, please.
l l	

Mr. Chernoff Direct of Isaac Nformangum Raise your right hand. 13:33:53 1 (Witness sworn.) 13:34:00 2 ISAAC NFORMANGUM, DULY SWORN, TESTIFIED: 13:34:00 3 DIRECT EXAMINATION 13:34:00 4 BY MR. CHERNOFF: 13:34:07 5 Isaac, can you hear me okay? 13:34:08 6 THE COURT: This is a formal proceeding. Please 13:34:09 7 address him by his last name. 8 MR. CHERNOFF: I will, Judge. 13:34:12 9 THE COURT: Thank you. 13:34:1310 BY MR. CHERNOFF: 13:34:1411 Q I'm calling you Mr. Nformangum even though I've called you 13:34:1412 13 |Isaac our whole relationship because we're in federal court, 14 okay? 13:34:2115 lΙΑ Understood. 13:34:2216 Okay. I want you to tell us your age, please. Q 13:34:2617 Α Yes. I am 23 years of age. And state your full name. 13:34:2818 Q 13:34:2919 Α Yes. My full name is Isaac Ambe Nformangum. All right. Where do you live currently? 13:34:3620 Q 13:34:3821 lΑ Yes. I currently live in Richmond, Texas, 17607 Barton Point Lane. 13:34:4323 Q And this is with your mother; is that right? 13:34:4524 Α Yes. Q Now, I want to bring your attention to June 28th of 2022. 13:34:4825

Mr. Chernoff Direct of Isaac Nformangum Were you living with your mother then as well? Yes, I was. 13:34:52 2 Α All right. And you recall that date pretty well? 13:34:53 Q Yes. 13:34:57 4 Α Do you recall being arrested on that day? 13:34:58 5 Q 13:34:59 6 Α Yes. All right. I want to discuss the circumstances of that 13:35:01 7 Q arrest, all right? 13:35:05 9 Yes. You were at home when you were arrested? 13:35:0510 Q Yes, I was. 13:35:0711 Α All right. And at the time that you were being arrested, 13:35:0812 Q 13 were you aware of what you were being arrested for? 13:35:1914 Did you know why you were being arrested? 13:35:2615 Okay. Mr. Nformangum, describe the circumstances of the 16 arrest, please. 13:35:3317 Α Yes, sir. Yes. It was approximately 12:00 p.m. --13:35:3818 THE COURT: Sir, would you lean forward and speak more closely into the mic and louder? 19 THE WITNESS: Yes, Your Honor. 13:35:4220 13:35:4321 THE COURT: Thank you. 13:35:4422 Α Yes. It was 12:00 p.m. 13:35:4423 Yes. It was 12:00 p.m., approximately, when there was 24 knock -- there was banging at the door. I did not know who it

was at first. I assume that it was someone trying to break in.

8 Mr. Chernoff Direct of Isaac Nformangum I -- I went to my sister's room. The window was 13:36:00 1 2 overlooking the driveway. I looked out and saw, in fact, it was the police, and so I resolved to go downstairs, go up to the 3 door, and so, you know, turn myself in to the authority. 4 BY MR. CHERNOFF: 13:36:18 5 All right. The -- this is 12:00 noon; is that right? 13:36:19 6 Q Α 13:36:22 7 Yes. Q All right. And you went outside after looking out the 13:36:22 8 window, right? 9 13:36:2610 lΑ Yes. Okay. Describe -- tell us what agencies were outside --13:36:2611 Q were -- were attempting to arrest you. 12 13:36:3313 A Yes. It was the U.S. Marshals, as was later confirmed to 14 me. It was a detachment with the Fort Bend -- the Fort Bend 15 Police Department. 13:36:4616 Q All right. So both the federal marshals and Fort Bend 17 Sheriff's Department were there; is that right? 13:36:5418 Α Yes. All right. Who transported you after the arrest? 13:36:5419 Q 13:36:5820 $oxedsymbol{\mathsf{A}}$ Yes. I was -- the U.S. Marshals transported me to the 21 Fort Bend County jail. It was approximately 12, 15 minutes away 22 from the house.

Q All right. So you rode with the U.S. Marshal; is that

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24

right?

Yes. Yes.

Α

Mr. Chernoff Direct of Isaac Nformangum

- Q All right. During that interaction with the U.S. Marshal, I mean, at the time that -- that you were riding with them or during the arrest, did anybody read you your Miranda rights?
- A No. I was not read my rights.
- Q You know what your Miranda rights are. You've heard of those; is that right?
- A Yes, I know them.
- Q You know what they consist of. You know what the point of those are; is that right?
- A Yes. Uh-huh.
- Q All right. Did you have any conversation with the federal marshal that was transporting you to the jail?
- A Yes, I did.
- **Q** All right. Do you recall the conversation?
- A Yes, I recall. I was -- yes. The marshal in question,

 Officer Jones specifically, he asked me if I -- he asked me if I

 knew what the call was about. They said they had received a

 call from Harris County. I [sic] was asking, "Do you know of

 this?" I answered, "Yes, I do."
- Q All right. Any other conversation?

Let me ask you this question specifically: Did he mention anything about making a statement or being interrogated?

- A Yes.
- ${f Q}$ All right. What -- what -- tell us about that conversation.
- A Yes. Officer Joey, I was in the car with him on the ride to

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Mr. Chernoff Direct of Isaac Nformangum the county jail. I was informed that, again, that I was to be taken to Harris County, wherein I was to be interrogated and -- and -- well, yes, Officer Joey clarified that, you know, the -- whatever happens after that, will happen, and that was the end of the conversation. All right. Now, during this conversation, did -- did -would -- were you ever read your rights? No, I was not. Α And when I say "rights," I'm referring to Miranda rights, 0 right, the right to --Yes. Q The right to remain silent; right to attorney; that kind of thing --Α Uh-huh. Q -- right? All right. Now, you were not brought to Harris County. You were brought to Fort Bend County jail; is that right? Yes, I was. Α Q And this is on the 28th of June; is that right? Α Yes. Q All right. When was the first time that you -- well, at some point you were brought before a magistrate; is that right? Α Yes. Q Now, for purposes of those who don't know how that works in

the Fort Bend jail, could you describe that process?

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Mr. Chernoff Direct of Isaac Nformangum

- A Yes. It was the next day, on Wednesday, that -- sometime in the morning around 11:00 or 12:00 p.m.
- Q So to be clear, you were arrested at noon on June 28th?
- A Yes.

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- Q And you saw -- no police officer came to interrogate you or asked you questions at all until -- at least until the 29th at 11:00 a.m.; is that right?
- A Yes.
- **Q** All right. You sat in the jail?
- A Yes.
- **Q** And nobody spoke to you?
- A No.
- **Q** And nobody read you your rights?
- A No.
- ${f Q}$ So at 11:00 a.m. on the 29th, describe the process.
- A Yes. I was alongside 20 other inmates brought before a magistrate judge. There was a miniature courtroom inside of the -- the jail itself that we were brought to. All of us inmates were handcuffed from the front. We had -- we were shackled around the waist.

We were brought inside of the courtroom. We were -- yes. We were brought inside the courtroom. We were sat in the back of the courtroom.

Sometime after we were sat down in the back, we were called to the front to -- we were called to the front of the courthouse

12 Mr. Chernoff Direct of Isaac Nformangum to stand before one of the bailiffs inside, and we were asked as to whether or not we would hire an attorney or we would like a court-appointed attorney. In my case, I requested a court-appointed attorney. I sat

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back down in the back of the courthouse, and a short while after that, I was again called to the front by another of the bailiffs who had in their hand an iPad -- an electronic pad, which I was told to sign with the understanding, as told to me by the bailiff, that the -- the form would work to -- would work to -you know, the form would work to make sure that I was eligible to receive a court-appointed attorney.

- Q All right. And so do you recall, prior to signing this form, the magistrate reading you the rights that are on this form?
- Α No. I was not read the rights by the magistrate, no.
- Q So the first time you saw these rights, were given to you by the deputy; is that correct?
- Α By one of the bailiffs in the courthouse -- the courtroom, yes.
- MR. CHERNOFF: May I approach the witness, Judge, to show him this exhibit?

THE COURT: You need not ask permission to approach the witness.

MR. CHERNOFF: Okay. Thank you.

MR. LANDERS: No one needs to.

Mr. Chernoff Direct of Isaac Nformangum BY MR. CHERNOFF: 13:42:26 1 I want to show you -- this is Defense Exhibit 1 that I've 13:42:27 2 Q just shown you, Mr. Nformangum, right? 3 Do you recall, is this the form that you saw on that iPad 13:42:36 4 at the time that you -- that you signed it? 5 Yes. That was the form. Α 13:42:41 6 And the rights that were -- I -- did you read that iPad 13:42:43 7 before you signed it? Α Yes. I read the -- I read the form twice. 13:42:48 9 All right. And all of those rights you realized that 13:42:5110 Q 11 you -- or at the time, you read all of those rights prior to signing that iPad; is that right? 12 13:42:5813 A Yes, that is correct. 13:43:0214 At the time you signed this iPad, did you think you were 15 asserting your Miranda rights? 13:43:0716 THE COURT: I'm sorry. Say that again? 13:43:0817 BY MR. CHERNOFF: Q At the time that you signed this iPad, did you think you 13:43:0918 were asserting your Miranda rights? 19 A Yes. Including my right to an attorney, yes. 13:43:1320 13:43:1621 Q All right. And all of those rights? 13:43:1822 || A Yes. 13:43:1823 Q And this is on the 29th at 11:00 a.m.; is that right? 13:43:2224 || A Yes.

And still by this time, you had not been approached by a law

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	Mr. Chernoff Direct of Isaac Nformangum
1	enforcement officer to interview you; is that right?
13:43:42 2	A No.
13:43:42 3	$oldsymbol{Q}$ When was the first time that a law enforcement officer came
4	to interview you?
13:43:47 5	A Yes. It was the day after the arraignment hearing on
6	Wednesday. It was Thursday.
13:43:53 7	${f Q}$ All right. So this is the 30th now; is that right?
13:43:56 8	A Yes.
13:43:57 9	$oldsymbol{Q}$ All right. And the individuals that came to interview you,
10	were they both state and federal agents?
3:44:0611	A Yes.
3:44:0612	Q Do you recall the names of these people?
3:44:1113	A Yes. Special Agent Gregory R. Brown with the FBI, and
14	Detective Brownson with the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office
15	who worked investigations.
3:44:2016	Q Okay. Were you surprised in light of the fact that you
17	signed these Miranda rights, were you surprised to see these
18	officers?
18	A Yes.
3:44:2720	Q And they talked to you. They spoke to you for a brief
21	period of time before they read you rights again; is that right?
3:44:3322	A Yes.
13:44:3423	Q All right. And then you answered their questions; is that
24	A Yes. Q All right. And then you answered their questions; is that correct?
	A Yes.

	Mr. Chernoff Direct of Isaac Nformangum
3:44:37 1	THE COURT: Can I interrupt and ask a question here?
3:44:44 2	MR. CHERNOFF: Yes, Judge. Thank you.
3:44:45 3	THE COURT: Had you asked questions asking for the
4	details of the reason you were arrested before you were read
5	these rights?
3:44:55 6	MR. CHERNOFF: Judge, can you ask that question
7	differently for him, please?
3:44:59 8	THE COURT: All right.
3:45:00 9	Before you were read these rights, had you given any
10	detailed statement to any law enforcement officer or judge?
3:45:1111	THE WITNESS: No, I did not.
3:45:1212	THE COURT: Was the first time you gave your statement
13	after you had been read these rights?
3:45:1914	THE WITNESS: Yes, that is correct.
3:45:2015	THE COURT: Thank you.
3:45:2216	BY MR. CHERNOFF:
3:45:2217	Q During the the
3:45:2318	MR. CHERNOFF: May I, Judge?
3:45:2519	THE COURT: Yes, please.
3:45:2520	BY MR. CHERNOFF:
3:45:2621	${f Q}$ During the interview, the interrogation at this time, did
22	you also provide them your cell phone, or did they have your
23	cell phone?
3:45:3524	A Yes. They had my cell phone because I had given it to the
25	police.
	A Company of the Comp

16 Mr. Bennett Cross of Isaac Nformangum ll Q All right. And they asked for your password; is that right? 13:45:38 1 Α Yes. 13:45:41 2 13:45:41 3 Did you provide them the password? Q 13:45:43 4 Yes. Was it the correct password? 13:45:43 5 Q 13:45:45 6 Α Yes. 13:45:48 7 Q All right. 13:45:53 8 MR. CHERNOFF: That's all I have, Judge. THE COURT: All right. Go ahead, Mr. Bennett. 13:45:54 9 MR. BENNETT: Just one question. 13:46:0010 CROSS-EXAMINATION 13:46:0111 BY MR. BENNETT: 13:46:0212 13:46:0213 Q Good afternoon, Mr. -- is it Nformangum? lΑ Yes. 13:46:0414 13:46:0515 Okay. My name's Rick Bennett. I don't think you and I have 16 met before, but I'm the prosecutor on this case. 13:46:0917 And following up on the -- you know, the judge just asked you a question, and you stated that nobody had questioned you 18 19 about the details of this case until Agent Brown came and talked 20 to you; isn't that correct? 13:46:2521 Yes, that is correct. Α

Okay. And he read you your rights?

And it was all recorded on video. Are you aware of that?

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Yes.

Yes, I was aware.

Mr. Chernoff Redirect of Isaac Nformangum ||Q And you waived your rights, and you spoke to the officer? 13:46:35 1 lΙΑ Yes, I did. 13:46:37 2 MR. BENNETT: No further questions, Your Honor. 13:46:41 3 MR. CHERNOFF: Judge, I have one more question, 13:46:42 4 5 please. THE COURT: Of course. Go ahead. 13:46:45 6 REDIRECT EXAMINATION 13:46:45 7 13:46:46 8 BY MR. CHERNOFF: \mathbf{Q} Prior to the visit on June 30th by the federal agent and the 13:46:53 9 state deputy, had you made a request to see any of these 10 11 individuals? lacktriangle No. I did not make a request to see any one officer for the 13:47:0412 13 purpose of interrogation or otherwise. Q All right. Thank you. 13:47:1114 13:47:1215 MR. CHERNOFF: That's all I have. 13:47:1416 THE COURT: Anything further of this witness? 13:47:1617 MR. BENNETT: No, Your Honor. 13:47:1618 THE COURT: You may step down, sir. Thank you. MR. LANDERS: Judge, next we call Special Agent Brown. 13:47:2519 THE COURT: All right. Agent Brown. 13:47:2720 13:47:3221 MR. BENNETT: May I inquire, Your Honor: Did you 22 issue Agent Brown a subpoena? 13:47:3623 MR. LANDERS: No. MR. BENNETT: Okay. Well, there are certain 13:47:3724 25 regulations that I'll -- I can question him, but there's no

Mr. Bennett Direct of Gregory Brown regulations that have been done in this case, Your Honor. So I would ask that unless that's complied with, they can -- I can call him, and they can cross him. THE COURT: So is that what you want me to do? MR. BENNETT: Yes, Your Honor. THE COURT: Do you want to take him out of order? MR. BENNETT: That's fine with me, Your Honor. THE COURT: All right. MR. LANDERS: No objection. THE COURT: Raise your right hand, please. (Witness sworn.) THE COURT: Please take the witness stand. And it would be helpful if you, as well, would lean forward and speak directly into the mic. Go ahead. MR. BENNETT: Thank you Your Honor. GREGORY BROWN, DULY SWORN, TESTIFIED: DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. BENNETT: Sir, would you please state your full name for the record? Q Gregory R. Brown. Α Sir, how are you employed? Q lΑ I'm an FBI agent. How long have you been an FBI agent? Q lΙΑ Twenty years.

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Mr. Bennett Direct of Gregory Brown ΙQ What are your duties as an FBI agent? 13:48:33 1 Α I conduct investigations and gather evidence for matters 13:48:38 2 that are of interest to the United States. 3 And, briefly, do you have an educational background 13:48:43 description? 5 Yeah. I have a bachelor's degree in business Α 13:48:49 7 administration. 13:48:53 8 Okay. Are you familiar with the case involving Q Mr. Nformangum? 9 13:48:5610 lΑ Yes, I am. And how did you get involved? 13:48:5711 Q I was assigned this case by my supervisor. 13:49:0012 Α 13:49:0313 Q And what were you -- I mean, what happened in this case? 14 What were you told? 13:49:0815 Α I was told that there was a -- a threat left to Senator Cruz 16 on his voicemail that had occurred on Sunday, June 26th. Q And when did you -- I guess, when were you told that? 13:49:2217 I was told that on Tuesday, June the 28th. 13:49:2418 Α 13:49:2919 Have you reviewed documents and spoken to other officers in 20 this investigation? Α Yes, I have. 13:49:3321 And where -- who received the threat? 13:49:3422 Q 13:49:3723 Α It was a staff member of Senator Cruz. Which office? 13:49:4024 Q

A

In Houston, Texas.

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Mr. Bennett Direct of Gregory Brown ||Q Is that the Southern District of Texas? 13:49:42 1 lΑ Yes, it is. 13:49:44 2 So you said the threat came in on June 26th. What day of 13:49:45 3 ΙΙQ the week was that? lΑ That was a Sunday. 13:49:49 5 So was there -- was it left on a voicemail? 13:49:49 6 Q lΑ Yes, it was. 13:49:52 7 13:49:53 8 Q And do you recall when the threat was actually recorded? lΑ I do. 12:23 p.m. 13:49:57 9 On what day? 13:50:0010 Q 13:50:0211 lΙΑ Sunday. What day was the threat actually found by --13:50:0412 Q 13:50:0613 lΙΑ Oh, I apologize. It was found the following morning, 14 Monday, June the 27th. 13:50:1615 Now --13:50:1816 MR. BENNETT: May I approach the witness? 13:50:1817 THE COURT: Yes. You need not ask permission to 18 approach the witness. BY MR. BENNETT: 13:50:2119 13:50:2120 **Q** And I'm handing you an exhibit binder with the government's 21 exhibits. 13:50:2422 Are you aware what the threat said? 13:50:2823 || A Yes, I am. $oldsymbol{oldsymbol{Q}}$ And if you turn to Exhibit 1, is that a transcription of the 13:50:2924 25 threat?

Mr. Bennett Direct of Gregory Brown

A Yes.

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- **Q** And can you give the Court just a brief summary of what the threat said?
- A Starts out: (Reading) Hello. Good afternoon, Senator Rafael.

The caller says that he just read the Texas Republican

Party's platform for the current year, 2022, where the intention

from the party was to appeal the Voter Rights Act. And from

there, it says that: (Reading) Every Republican that signed off

on this should be found and killed, be it by bullet to the face

or by the smashing of a brick in your skull. It's the civic

duty of every American to see to it that every one of your

colleagues are killed.

It goes on to say: (Reading) Be it by finding you in a public space or by trailing you to your very public home, the addresses of which are public knowledge -- and there's some more discussion of being human.

- Q What does the next sentence say?
- A (Reading) You and every one of your colleagues is to be shot dead, found and killed.
- Q Okay. And it continues on?
- A Yes.
- Q All right. And who was that threat initially reported to?
- A Well, when Senator Cruz's staff member retrieved the message on Monday the 27th of June of 2022, she reported it to the

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1	Mr. Bennett Direct of Gregory Brown senator's special operations advisor in Houston.
13:52:19 2	${f Q}$ Okay. And then what did that special operations advisor do?
13:52:22 3	A He forwarded it to the United States Capitol Police in
4	Washington, D.C.
13:52:26 5	Q And what did capitol police do?
13:52:28 6	A They do a threat assessment. They try to determine any
7	validity to to the threat, who made the threat, where it's
8	located. Basically, they look at law enforcement databases,
9	things like that Open Source.
13:52:4510	${f Q}$ What type of information did they have the capitol police
11	have related to the threatening voicemail?
13:52:5212	A Well, first off, the call itself had a caller ID that said
13	Cath Nformangum. So they had that. They had the phone number.
14	Then they determined that the user of that number was the
15	defendant.
13:53:1216	${f Q}$ And was that through running that phone number and name
17	through the various databases?
3:53:1818	A It did.
3:53:1819	$oldsymbol{Q}$ Okay. And did they take any other steps once they had that
20	name?
13:53:2321	Once they had the defendant's name, what other steps did
22	they take?
13:53:2623	A Once they had his name, they determined, you know, where he
24	lived, and it turns out it was in the you know, the general
25	area of where the senator resides. And so they forwarded

forwarded all their findings to the Fort Bend County Sheriff's 1 2 Office because the defendant lived in that area. And when -- did the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office 13:53:46 3 further the investigation? Α Yeah. On that Monday, the 27th of -- they did -- did quite 13:53:51 5 a bit more, to include surveillance at the house. Did they look at his social media? 13:54:01 7 Q A Looked at social media; found -- found a Facebook. They 13:54:03 8 found an Instagram; found a YouTube channel. 9 And what did they do with that when they found that YouTube 13:54:1210 11 channel? **||A** Well, on the YouTube channel, one of the videos just, you 13:54:1712 13 know, the -- showed an individual playing a video game. 13:54:2614 MR. LANDERS: Judge, we object to relevance on this, 15 just to speed things along, if it helps. 13:54:3016 MR. BENNETT: Okay. I'll move along, Judge. 13:54:3217 THE COURT: Thank you. 13:54:3218 BY MR. BENNETT: 13:54:3319 All right. So at some point a -- a state criminal complaint 20 was filed; is that right? 13:54:3921 Α Yes, that's right. What was it filed for? 13:54:4122 Q 13:54:4323 IA Terroristic threat. And which county filed that charge? 13:54:4524 Q lΙΑ Harris County. 13:54:4725

Mr. Bennett Direct of Gregory Brown

24 Mr. Bennett Direct of Gregory Brown Q And if you turn to Exhibit 7, is that a copy of the 13:54:49 1 2 complaint -- state complaint? Yes, it is. 13:54:57 And that was filed on what day? 13:54:57 4 0 On the first page of the complaint, it says "Stamped Copy." 13:55:03 5 Was it filed on June 28th? 13:55:07 6 June 28th, yes. I'm sorry. 13:55:08 7 Α 13:55:10 8 Q Okay. And when was Mr. Nformangum arrested? He was arrested on the morning of June 28th, 2022. 13:55:14 9 Α Okay. And arrested on the state complaint, correct? 13:55:3010 Q 13:55:3311 Correct. So at the time he was arrested, do you know where he was 13:55:3812 Q 13 taken? Where was he taken? 13:55:4414 Oh, he was arrested at his home, and he was taken to the 13:55:4515 16 Fort Bend County jail. 13:55:4717 Q And who took -- performed the arrest? 13:55:5118 IA It was a Task Force Officer Roger Williams [sic] with the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office. 19 Did you speak to Mr. Williams -- or Officer Williams? 13:55:5620 Q I did. 13:55:5921 Α 13:56:0022 And did he indicate whether he read the defendant his rights Q 23 or interrogated him?

13:56:0524 A I asked him, and he said he did not. He said his job was to arrest and take to the closest jail.

25 Mr. Bennett Direct of Gregory Brown Q Okay. And how did you find out where Mr. Nformangum was 1 2 being held? Officer Williamson told me he was at the Fort Bend County 13:56:20 3 jail and that he would be there for up to 10 days or until Harris County came down and got him. 5 And at this point, there's no federal charges; is that 13:56:29 7 right? 13:56:31 8 Α Correct. And so what was your role in this investigation? 13:56:32 9 Q Well, to look at any federal violations, which -- which 13:56:3610 Α 11 there were some federal violations that appeared. And so --Q Okay. Were you coordinating or directing the state and 13:56:4412 13 telling them what to do? Α No. 13:56:4814 13:56:4915 Q Okay. Were you acting on their behalf at all? 13:56:5116 Α No. 13:56:5317 Q And did you visit him, Mr. Nformangum, on June 30th? 13:56:5718 Α I did. And had you -- had you talked to him or seen him before? 13:56:5819 Q 13:57:0120 Α No. 13:57:0321 Q What about Detective Brownson? Had he, to your knowledge --22 have you spoken with him?

I did. I met him that morning for the first time ever. He

had -- he indicated he had never talked to the defendant. He

showed me into the jail, where we needed to go, and arranged for

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Mr. Bennett Direct of Gregory Brown the defendant to come to the interview room. And to your knowledge, had anyone in Fort Bend County Q 13:57:20 3 interrogated Mr. Nformangum before you spoke with him? 13:57:26 4 No. And do you see him in the courtroom today? 13:57:28 5 0 Yes, I do. 13:57:30 6 Α Will you describe where he's seated and what he's wearing? 13:57:31 7 Q 13:57:34 8 Α He's seated with his attorneys. He's wearing a light blue dress shirt. 9 13:57:4110 MR. BENNETT: Your Honor, let the record reflect the 11 witness has identified the defendant. THE COURT: The record will so reflect. Thank you. 13:57:4412 13:57:4613 BY MR. BENNETT: Q And so you proceeded to read him his Miranda rights? 13:57:4614 13:57:4915 A I did. 13:57:5016 Q Was this on video? 13:57:5117 Α Yes. And is it -- a transcript of this on -- contained in Exhibit 13:57:5118 Q No. 2? 19 Yes. Or portions, I believe. 13:58:0220 || A Or is this -- yeah. It's here. 13:58:0421 13:58:0722 Did you take your time, you know, reading him these rights? Q 13:58:1223 Α Yes. I actually went a little slower than I normally do, line by line; made sure the defendant had a copy to read along. 24

Okay. And did he agree to waive his rights to speak to you?

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27 Mr. Bennett Direct of Gregory Brown lΙΑ Yes, he did. 13:58:28 1 And did you also ask him for consent to search his phone? 13:58:29 2 Q 13:58:32 3 Yes. And did he give that to you? 13:58:33 4 Q Α He did. 13:58:34 5 Did he -- was it a -- a written consent? 13:58:35 6 Q 13:58:39 7 Α Written consent, yes. Is that found at Exhibit No. 10? 13:58:40 8 Q Yes, it is. 13:58:49 9 Α And it looks like there is a -- I guess, that diagram, who 13:58:5010 Q drew that diagram? 11 A The dots were put there by Detective Brownson, and the 13:58:5712 13 numbers and the lines connecting were written by the defendant. Okay. And he voluntarily signed this consent to search? 13:59:0814 Q 13:59:1215 IA Yes. 13:59:1216 Q And there's also Exhibit No. 8. There's an advice of rights 17 form. Is that the rights advisals you gave him? 13:59:1618 13:59:2119 IA Yes. And he -- and that's his signature there at the bottom? 13:59:2220 Q 13:59:2721 Yes, it is. Α 13:59:2822 When you were reading him these rights, did he ever tell Q

Did he ever invoke his right to remain silent?

you, "Stop. I want a lawyer"?

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No.

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3:59:37 1	A No.
3:59:42 2	Q And after this interview, did you speak to him again or
3	interrogate him again?
3:59:47 4	A No.
3:59:47 5	Q Okay.
3:59:48 6	MR. BENNETT: Pass the witness, Your Honor.
3:59:49 7	CROSS-EXAMINATION
3:59:54 8	BY MR. LANDERS:
3:59:59 9	Q Special Agent Brown, nice to see you again.
4:00:0110	A Yes, sir.
4:00:0111	Q I'm Jonathan Landers.
4:00:0512	What area do you work out of? Is it Houston, Texas?
4:00:0813	A I'm in the Texas City resident agency.
4:00:1014	Q Okay. So you're local here to the Houston area?
4:00:1315	A Yes.
4:00:1316	Q Okay. I don't want to get into detail here, but does the
17	FBI have any procedures related to interviewing suspects?
4:00:2318	A We do.
4:00:2319	Q Okay. Is there anything about a timeline, when it's best to
20	interview a suspect that's just been arrested?
4:00:3521	THE COURT: Do you mean what time of day?
4:00:3722	A Not necessarily.
4:00:3723	THE COURT: I'm sorry. Do you mean what time of day,
24	or how long after the arrest?
4:00:4125	BY MR. LANDERS:

- Q No. How long do you usually wait, is what I'm getting at, to interview a suspect?
- A If feasible, sooner is better.
- Q Okay. So generally speaking, an FBI agent is trained to try to interview somebody as soon after they're arrested as possible?
- A Ideally.

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- Q Okay. Is part of the reason, that the FBI would want to interview a suspect prior to them hiring a lawyer or being given a lawyer?
- A I would say so, yes.
- Q Okay. And how long have you been an agent, again?
- A Twenty years.
- Q Generally speaking, on your cases, do you interview a suspect who's been arrested prior to going to court the first time?
- A Generally, yes. If I'm involved in the arrest --
- **Q** Okay.
- A -- especially.
- Q And then how did you become involved in this case?
- A I was notified by my supervisor that this case was coming.
- I was told about it. I called the U.S. Attorney's Office to get an AUSA assigned to get its direction, and then at that point I
- was really playing catch-up.
 - **Q** Okay.

- A So I was trying to get a briefing on what happened, what evidence had been collected, where is the defendant, is there any evidence, that sort of thing. Just basic --
- **Q** Okay.

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- A -- stuff just trying to get an idea of where we're at.
- Q And just to get the timeline again, June 26, 2022, midday is the phone call?
- A That's right.
- **Q** That's a Sunday?
- A Yep.
- Q Monday, which is the -- June 27th, were you involved in the case on Monday, June 27th?
- A No, I didn't know about it.
- Q But you're aware that Fort Bend County, I think, was working on gathering some evidence on that day?
- A No.
- Q Okay. You don't know if they were or they were not?
- A I first learned about this in -- around noon on June 28th, which was a Tuesday.
- Q Okay. And then were you aware -- I believe the arrest took place on June 28th.
- A I now know it did take place earlier that morning, yes.
- Q Okay. Were you aware that Mr. Nformangum had been arrested on June 28th? I'm talking about on June 28th, were you aware?
- A I may have been aware at that time, or I may have found out

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31 Mr. Landers Cross of Greg Brown the following day. Q Okay. Is there -- okay. On June 28th and June 29th, were 14:03:23 2 you in conversation with the state authorities? 3 Yes. I spoke to the arresting task force officer, 14:03:36 Α Williamson, and then I talked to Detective Brownson. 5 And was that on June 28th? Q If I can refer to my note? 14:03:57 7 14:03:58 8 Sure. 0 Α Yes, it was. 14:04:05 9 Okay. What was the reason that the interview of 14:04:0510 Q 11 Mr. Nformangum didn't take place until June 30th? Α I wasn't sure that we were going to have federal charges or 14:04:2112 13 not. It was -- we -- it was an assessment. It wasn't even an 14 open investigation. It was just a gather some initial facts; 15 see what's going on; see if this is going to be a federal case, 16 yes or no. If the answer's no, then there's no point in taking 17 any further steps. 14:04:4118 Q Okay. So really, from the 28th and 29th, I was gathering 14:04:4119 information; getting a copy of what's been done; you know, 20 talking with my assistant U.S. attorney; figuring out next 21

Okay. So is it fair to say two days later, June 30th, the

decision has -- had been made to potentially pursue the federal

case, and that's when you decided to interview Mr. Nformangum?

steps; that sort of thing.

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- A Yes. That morning on June 30th.
- Q Okay. And you weren't really aware of what had been going on with him, Mr. Nformangum, the prior two days?
- A I knew, in my mind, it was a little bit unusual for me, being that I usually do federal arrests -- our jurisdiction's the United States, you know. If we arrest them in -- wherever, and we take them to the courthouse in Houston.

I was not aware exactly of the state procedures until it was explained to me, Oh, he's in Fort Bend, but it's a Harris County charge. He's got to be basically, like, extradited. They take ten days. You know, they come down whenever they can to get him, and that's all I knew.

- Q Okay. The June 30th, 2022, interview with Mr. Nformangum, that was the first interview that took place with law enforcement?
- A Yes.

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- **Q** Okay. And it was actually done in the Fort Bend County jail?
- A Correct.
- Q Clearly, Mr. Nformangum was not free to leave at that point.

 Do you agree with that?
- A That's right.
- Q Okay. Like you said, he had to actually be brought to Harris County prior to being free to leave, is your understanding?

33 Mr. Landers Cross of Greg Brown lΙΑ I would think, yes. 14:06:25 1 14:06:27 2 Q Okay. Uh-huh. 14:06:27 3 Whenever you went to interview Mr. Nformangum, you had --14:06:29 4 0 did you have his cell phone with you? 5 No, I did not. 14:06:34 6 Α Okay. Did the sheriff that was with you have it? 14:06:35 7 Q They had it, I believe, in his property at the jail. 14:06:40 8 Α Okay. And that was Sheriff Brownson; is that right? 14:06:43 9 Q He -- he didn't have it. It would have been the 14:06:4910 11 arresting --That was a bad question. I apologize. 14:06:5512 Q 14:06:5813 The sheriff that was with you in the interview was a 14 Fort Bend County sheriff named Brownson? 14:07:0315 Correct. 14:07:0316 Q Okay. But the phone, which was later searched, had already 17 been seized by the sheriffs [sic]? 14:07:1618 A Not by any legal process. I think it was -- perhaps he had 19 the phone on him at the time of his arrest. So his belt, his 20 watch, his wallet, his phone would have been in property, you know, for safekeeping. 21 14:07:2722 Q Okay. I just want to make sure we're clear. It was actually Mr. Nformangum's phone --23

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Oh --

-- that was later searched?

Mr. Landers Cross of Greg Brown A -- yes. Yes.

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A Yeah.

Okay.

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- **Q** And during this June 30th, 2022, interview, the password to the phone was given to you by Mr. Nformangum?
- the phone was given to you by MI. Niormangum:
- A Yes, it was.
- **Q** Okay.
- Were you aware that Mr. Nformangum had been taken before a magistrate prior to your interview with him?
- A I was not --
- **Q** Okay.
- **A** -- aware.
- Q Have you ever -- it doesn't sound like it, but have you ever worked on Texas state-level cases?
- A Not very often.
- Q Okay. Are you aware of any laws in Texas that when a person -- well, first off, that a person has to be taken before a magistrate within 48 hours of their arrest?
- A It seems reasonable, but I would not have been able to tell you that.
- **Q** Are you aware that a magistrate in Texas is required to read Miranda rights to a defendant?
- A That's a fair assumption, yes.
- Q Okay. Have you -- have you reviewed Defense Exhibit 1 prior to today?

- A (Witness reviews document.)
- Q Just 1.
- A Exhibit 1, yes, I have.
- **Q** Okay. And do you agree Defense Exhibit 1 is some sort of form that was signed by Mr. Nformangum when he visited with the magistrate?
- A Yes.
- Q Okay. And I think up in the first -- I think there's a 1 on the top of that form -- or there's at least a list of rights which are, essentially, Miranda rights. Do you agree with that?
- A Agreed.
- **Q** Do you agree that they also mirror the Miranda rights in Defense Exhibit 2? Do you agree with that?
- A Yes.
- **Q** And what is Defense Exhibit 2?
- A This is an FBI advice of rights form.
- Q Okay. And that's the form that you used prior to your interview with Isaac?
- A Correct.
- Q Okay. Were you aware, whenever you interviewed Isaac on June 30th, that on June 28th he had asked for a lawyer?
- A I was not aware of that.
- Q Okay. If you had known that he was read his Miranda rights by a magistrate and requested a lawyer, would you have initiated this interview?

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	Mr. Landers Cross of Greg Brown
4:09:59 1	f A Possibly. I would have discussed that with the federal AUSA
2	beforehand.
4:10:13 3	${f Q}$ Did Mr. Nformangum initiate this interview, the one on
4	June 30th?
4:10:18 5	A No.
4:10:22 6	Q I believe you said, when you read Defense Exhibit 2 with
7	Isaac I'm sorry, Mr. Nformangum, that you went over it
8	slowly; is that correct?
4:10:33 9	A I did.
4:10:3410	Q Why was that?
4:10:3511	A Based on his age. I have two sons that are close to his
12	age, and I wanted to make sure that he understood everything
13	correctly.
4:10:4714	Q I know you didn't ask Mr. Nformangum questions prior to
15	getting into the interview room about the case, okay, but did
16	you talk with him some on the way down to the interview room?
4:10:5717	A No, I did not.
4:10:5818	Q During the interview, did you develop concerns that there
19	might be, for lack of a better term, mental health issues or
20	some sort of diagnoses that might be present with
21	Mr. Nformangum?
4:11:1322	MR. BENNETT: I'm going to object to the relevance of
23	this, Your Honor.
4:11:1624	THE COURT: I'll sustain the objection.
4:11:1825	BY MR. LANDERS:
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Mr. Landers Cross of Greg Brown llο Would you flip to -- I think it's Government's Exhibit 2. 14:11:19 1 And I'll take that other exhibit so you don't lose them. 14:11:23 2 14:11:26 3 Okay. That's not the complete transcription of the interview. 14:11:36 4 0 you agree with that? 5 14:11:43 6 Α Yes. And it actually notes there are certain time frames that are 14:11:43 7 Q taken out. Do you agree with that? 8 14:11:50 9 Α Yes. Okay. One of the things that's not in there is at one point 14:11:5010 Q in the interview, you asked Mr. Nformangum if he was autistic. 11 MR. BENNETT: I'm going to object to the relevance of 14:12:0012 13 this questioning. THE COURT: I'll allow that one. 14:12:0314 I don't believe I came out directly and asked him that, but 14:12:0715 16 I indirectly asked him that, yes. 14:12:1117 BY MR. LANDERS: 14:12:1118 Q Okay. Is that something you do in all of your interviews? 14:12:1519 No. 14:12:1620 **Q** Was there a reason that you asked that question in this 21 case? 14:12:2022 Α Yes. 14:12:2123 Q What is that reason? The manner and style that he answered a couple of my 14:12:2524 A

questions made me think that that possibly may be a condition.

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38 Mr. Landers Cross of Greg Brown Q And I want to show you Defendant's Exhibit No. 3. 14:12:39 1 Α (Witness reviews document.) 14:12:45 2 I just want to clarify that this was the consent to search 14:12:47 3 Mr. Nformangum's phone that you obtained on the date of the interview. 5 14:13:00 6 Α Yes, it is. And it's a copy. It's not the original, right? 14:13:00 7 Q 14:13:03 8 Α Right. A copy. I wasn't trying to get you there. 14:13:04 9 0 And it was with -- is it your understanding that it was 14:13:0710 11 with that password and that permission that the later search of Mr. Nformangum's phone was conducted? 12 14:13:1713 Α Yes. This gave the authority to search his phone. 14:13:2014 Okay. Q 14:13:2115 Yes. 14:13:2316 Through your investigation, have you ever learned whether or Q 17 not this threat was relayed to Senator Cruz? 14:13:3318 MR. BENNETT: I'm going to object to this relevance, 19 Your Honor. MR. LANDERS: They asked questions about this. 14:13:3620 THE COURT: I'll allow it. 14:13:3821 I can't say definitively, but I do believe that it was. 14:13:4522

Okay. Did -- I believe you told us it was not Mr. Cruz who,

I guess, checked the answering machine for --

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BY MR. LANDERS:

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Mr. Landers Cross of Greg Brown 14:13:58 1 A That's right. Q Okay. And through your investigation and

Q Okay. And through your investigation and after meeting with Mr. Nformangum, you came to the conclusion that there was no validity to this threat; is that correct?

A No, that's not correct.

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MR. LANDERS: No further questions, Your Honor.

MR. BENNETT: No questions, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. You may step down, sir. Thank you.

MR. LANDERS: We rest, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Did you have any witnesses?

MR. BENNETT: No further witnesses, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Did you want to present argument?

MR. BENNETT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Go ahead.

MR. BENNETT: Judge, with respect to the motion to suppress, the government's position is that it should be denied.

First of all, the fact that a magistrate judge may read something that's called Miranda or that they refer to as Miranda in the context of a preliminary hearing or at an initial appearance does not automatically invoke Miranda under Fifth Amendment, because at the time Mr. Nformangum appeared in magistrate court in Fort Bend County, which is also stated in his motion and his affidavit, that's when he asked for an attorney, and that's when the Sixth Amendment attaches because

charges had been filed in state court on June 28th for terroristic threats. He's arrested on June 29th.

So the Sixth Amendment right to counsel is charge specific, and in this case, that would attach to the state charges. So as outlined -- outlined in my response, Your Honor, there was no custodial interrogation prior to June 30th when he was read his rights by Agent Brown. There had been no federal charges filed.

So that Sixth Amendment right to counsel did not carry over to the federal charges, and under *Blockburger*, even though sometimes, if there was similar state charges, that might carry over, that's not the case in the dual sovereignty doctrine, you know, with the federal and state charges, Your Honor.

There was no collusion. The FBI wasn't directing it, so there's no exception of the *Marcus* factors that would -- that may, you know, play into this. You know, that's just kind of a summary of what I put in my response, Your Honor, but in these circumstances, as testified by Mr. Nformangum and Agent Brown, he did not invoke his Fifth Amendment right to counsel, which would have carried over into any federal charges. That was not done.

It was only at the time he appeared in front of the magistrate court which he invoked his Sixth Amendment right to counsel, which did not carry over to the federal charges that he's indicted on, Your Honor.

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THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. LANDERS: And, Judge, I brought along with me, because I realize -- I know you've been doing this a lot longer than me and know a lot more than I do, but you don't always work in Texas court. So I brought you a copy and I brought the government a copy -- copy of -- with your permission, Judge --

(Document handed to the Court.)

MR. LANDERS: -- of two statutory provisions. One is Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 38.22, and I believe the other one is Article 15.17 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

Texas takes, with strong stance, protecting Miranda rights specifically. This -- what's, I think, been referred to as arraignment is more of a magistrate warning that's required in Texas after -- or within 48 hours of arrest. It does tell someone what they're arrested for, but under Article 15.17, they are -- an arrested suspect, the defendant, is specifically read their Miranda rights.

Under Article 38.22, we kind of have our own exclusionary rule for statements to make sure that *Miranda's* being complied with. For an oral statement, like the one in this case, there are a couple of requirements. Number one, the statement must be recorded; number two, either Miranda has to be read on that recording or, under Article 15.17, the magistrate could have read those Miranda warnings.

The reason this is important is these protections are

Fifth Amendment protections. I agree with the government. If Mr. Nformangum had been brought up before a magistrate and told he had the right to an attorney during court proceedings and that was it, and he said, "I want a lawyer," then he would have only invoked his Sixth Amendment rights. We wouldn't have a case then.

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But because he was specifically read his Miranda warnings, which we know are designed to protect your Fifth

Amendment right to remain silent, and whenever he was provided these warnings and signed them, he asked for a lawyer, he did invoke his Fifth Amendment rights.

I would like to address some of the government's cases briefly. The *Montejo* case, the Supreme Court case, is a Sixth Amendment case. There's some major differences in that case.

First of all, that defendant never invoked his right to counsel when Miranda was read. Mr. Nformangum invoked it the first time Miranda was read by that magistrate.

Also, during the preliminary proceeding in *Montejo*, there's absolutely no evidence that whatever that jurisdiction was had the special Fifth Amendment protections built in. It's a different case. *Montejo* is clear that *Edwards versus Arizona* is good law.

The Cooper case out of the Fifth Circuit, in the government's brief, there was no Miranda warnings read during the arraignment, and then they cite a quotation in footnote two

from the Supreme Court case in *McNeil* that tells us in order to invoke your Fifth Amendment right, which is at issue here, it requires, at a minimum, some statement that can reasonably be construed to be an expression of a desire for the assistance of an attorney in dealing with custodial interrogation by the police.

Whenever a bailiff or a magistrate reads you your
Miranda rights, and you say you want a lawyer -- in this case
you say you want a lawyer for the criminal case as well -- you
can invoke both Fifth and Sixth Amendment rights at the same
time in the state of Texas. And when you think about this, one
concern that you might have, Your Honor, is, okay, so everybody
arrested in Texas, whenever they ask for a lawyer, is invoking
both Fifth and Sixth Amendment rights.

Well, that's not the case. This is not the usual case. Usually, when someone is arrested, as Special Agent Brown tells us, they're going to be interviewed pretty dang quickly, not over -- or 48 hours later.

So what makes this case different than the cases cited by the government is not only does it take place in Texas, where we've got these special Fifth Amendment protections built into our code of criminal procedure, but it was kind of a weird case. It's a case where Mr. Nformangum sits in jail for 48 hours before anyone comes to see him.

So under Edwards versus Arizona, we have: The first

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time Mr. Nformangum is read his Miranda rights, he asked for a lawyer, check. Under the Fifth Amendment, so long as it applies, only Mr. Nformangum can initiate an interrogation.

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Everybody agrees he didn't initiate this.

It's a weird case. It's factually strange, but in this particular circumstance, at that magistrate warning hearing, whatever you want to call it, it's our argument that Mr. Nformangum invoked both his Fifth and Sixth Amendment rights. And because the Fifth Amendment is involved, his subsequent statement must be suppressed, and because his consent to search was given during that statement, including the password for his phone, that must be suppressed as well.

Thank you, Judge.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Bennett, you want to respond?

MR. BENNETT: Yes, Your Honor.

I think counsel's conflating the Fifth and Sixth

Amendment rights as they apply. According to the Supreme Court,

to invoke the Sixth Amendment interest is, as a matter of fact,

not to invoke Miranda-Edwards interest. So the fact that this

magistrate judge is reading something called "Miranda rights"

does not automatically mean that he is invoking his Fifth

Amendment rights in a Sixth Amendment setting because the Sixth

Amendment is triggered when a prosecution is commenced, when

formal charges are filed, and when there is a preliminary

hearing, indictment, or arraignment.

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And it may be in Texas this is not going to pass muster, and I would argue that -- if we were proceeding on the Texas charge, I would argue he invoked his Sixth Amendment right to counsel and, therefore, they couldn't interrogate him. But due to the fact that we have separate sovereigns, and the fact that invoking your right to counsel at a judiciary proceeding does not automatically or impliedly invoke your Fifth Amendment.

So -- and the *Montejo* case doesn't apply here, Judge.

All that case did was get rid of the *Michigan/Jackson* case,

which required -- basically, the court said the *Miranda-Edwards*rule kind of carried over in state proceedings. You didn't need *Michigan/Jackson* to carry over that right to counsel that's

invoked in the Fifth Amendment to the Sixth Amendment.

So that's -- and that case didn't deal with the dual sovereign doctrine. So I think, Judge, based on, you know, our written response and based on the circumstances in this case, he did not invoke any Sixth Amendment right to counsel on his federal charges after being read his rights and advisals by the magistrate judge in Fort Bend County; therefore, the suppression should be denied.

THE COURT: All right. Very well-presented argument, and it is a little troubling when the rights accorded under both state -- under law on the one hand and federal law on the other hand are not perfectly overlapping. Obviously, they overlap to

some extent, but there are differences, and this case is one of 1 2 the unusual ones that falls within that space. I'm going to deny the motion to suppress. I believe 14:25:05 3 that there were sufficient warnings given, and the nature, 4 timing, and content of the responses does not require 5 suppression. What else do we need to do today? 14:25:23 MR. LANDERS: I don't know that we need to do it 14:25:25 8 today, Judge. We have the motion --9 THE COURT: Mic. 14:25:2810 14:25:2911 MR. LANDERS: We have the motion to dismiss for First 12 Amendment grounds, which also, pretty clearly, is going to 13 affect the jury charge. But I don't know if that's something 14 for today or another day. 14:25:4015 THE COURT: I have read the motion to dismiss. Do you 16 want to briefly argue it? 14:25:4617 MR. LANDERS: Sure, Your Honor. 14:26:1618 So I think one thing related to the motion to dismiss 19 is clear, that both the parties agree the case is not to be dismissed prior to trial; that there would be certain jury 20 instructions which are necessary, specifically a subjective 21 intent requirement for both Counts 1 and 2. 22

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Also, I think under *Carpenter*, it's -- what is it

*Counterman -- the new case, *Counterman*, kind of provides us the framework for the necessary level of intent.

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I would also point out, Your Honor, that all we've raised right now is a facial challenge to both statutes. expect that after testimony and evidence, it would be the proper time, in a different motion, to raise an as-applied challenge. And if you look at the complaint in this case, and you read the government's attachment to their response to the motion to dismiss, this is going to be an interesting case as applied, as well, because you have a -- kind of an unclear threat.

If everything is as we've heard, Mr. Nformangum didn't say he's going to do these things. It's not 100 percent sure that Mr. Cruz actually receives the threat, and then we're also dealing with, pretty clearly, some political-type speech. related only to the -- the facial challenge, which is permitted in the First Amendment con- -- context, we content, under Count 1, that 18, U.S.C., Section 115 is unconstitutional.

We believe that its language goes beyond true threats, things that are only threats, and I would also point out this is the one that deals more --

THE COURT: The statute has passed facial challenges before, correct?

MR. LANDERS: I believe it has, Your Honor.

I have not seen a case --

THE COURT: Is there any case that says that the facial challenge is merit -- has merit?

MR. LANDERS: Not that I found.

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THE COURT: So you're asking me to take a position that no other court confronted with this question has taken?

MR. LANDERS: I haven't seen a whole lot of cases on it, but, yes, we are, Judge.

Very briefly I would point out one thing that I find interesting, the RAB versus City of St. Paul case, the cross burning case. So, generally, that very type of statute could pass constitutional muster unless -- in that case, the infirmity was it was singled out to a particular type of speech.

In this case, even if it only -- the statute only regulates true threats, it's only limited to a certain type of political speech, speech which is intended to make an elected official do something. So we think that RAB case might actually apply here. I've not seen that and that analysis apply to this.

I'll move on to the next statute, Judge.

This one -- and I apologize. I don't think that I briefed Alanis in my briefing. I had it in my file. I simply must have missed it.

That Alanis case specifically read in the necessary intent requirement.

THE COURT: Uh-huh.

MR. LANDERS: I would point out that that case is also -- specifically was a statutory based case. At the end of the case, they say, We're not going to address the First Amendment issues. So that it's not necessarily binding on the

Court.

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If there's no other questions, we'll sit down on that as well.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

Mr. Bennett?

MR. BENNETT: Just briefly, Your Honor. I mean, the Court pointed out all the cases, including Supreme Court, have upheld statutes restricting free speech when there's a true threat, and Counterman took this a step further to ensure that any borderline threats that would maybe fall under negligence, that went ahead and put that reckless as a minimum subjective intent.

So I think that any issues about this *Counterman* case can be resolved through jury instructions that, you know, we'll get to at the time.

But I think as far as this particular motion to dismiss, it's not -- it's not overbroad. It's not vague. As long as they satisfy the true threat jurisprudence, which I believe that in this case we do, as the statutes do, I think that there is no facially unconstitutional challenge that warrants a dismissal of the case at this time.

Now, whether, after the evidence and testimony, the defense counsel will do their Rule 29 and make their arguments then, we can address it then. And as far as the jury, you know -- we'll make sure the jury charge comports with the

Counterman requirements, but at this time I think, Your Honor, 1 2 the motion to dismiss should be denied. 14:31:11 3 **THE COURT:** Anything further? MR. LANDERS: No, Your Honor. 14:31:13 4 THE COURT: All right. Given the state of the case 14:31:13 5 law and the specific words of the message that is the basis of 6 7 this indictment, I agree with Mr. Bennett, that this issue needs to be made the -- tried, and we will see if -- obviously, the 8 questions will be properly crafted for the jury, and the 9 10 instructions will be carefully crafted, but there is enough 11 basis in the statute and the language of the alleged threat to 12 require us to go through that process. I don't see a basis to dismiss. So that motion is 14:31:5413 denied. So let's talk about -- so let's -- Glenda, we have 14 denied 39 and 41. 15 14:32:1116 THE CASE MANAGER: Yes, ma'am. 14:32:1117 THE COURT: So let's talk about a trial schedule. 14:32:5718 Dates? How long is the case going to take to try, two days? 19 MR. BENNETT: I can't see more than two days. 14:33:0220 THE COURT: We've got to pick the jury. 14:33:0521 14:33:0722 MR. LANDERS: Right. 14:33:0723 So I think testimony would be about a day. We'd have 24 to -- we're going to have -- we're going to argue over jury 25 instructions.

THE COURT: We're going to do that in advance, 14:33:15 1 2 largely. MR. LANDERS: Right. Right. So two days, three days. 14:33:18 3 MR. BENNETT: That's -- I think that's sufficient, 14:33:25 4 Your Honor. 5 THE COURT: I think it's three days. 14:33:26 6 MR. LANDERS: And, Your Honor, Ms. Eddins had sent us 14:33:29 7 the e-mail about a week ago -- I think she's gone today --8 THE COURT: She is. 14:33:35 9 MR. LANDERS: -- suggesting January 5th. 14:33:3610 MR. BENNETT: I thought it was the 8th. Was it the 14:33:3911 5th? 12 14:33:4113 MR. LANDERS: That's what it says. 14:33:4214 THE COURT: January 5th is a Friday. MR. BENNETT: Must be the 8th. I think it's the 8th. 14:33:4415 14:33:4616 MR. LANDERS: No. 14:33:4817 MR. BENNETT: That's fine with us. 14:33:4918 MR. LANDERS: I'm sorry. Pretrial conference on the 5th. 19 THE COURT: On Friday. 14:33:5120 14:33:5221 MR. LANDERS: Yes, Your Honor. 14:33:5422 THE COURT: All right. We can have a final pretrial 23 \parallel conference on the 5th at 10:00 o'clock; jury selection and trial 24 on the 8th beginning at 9:00 o'clock. That should take care of 25 it.

MR. BENNETT: And, Judge, I just want to get on the 2 record -- we had discussed this previously -- that -- to advise that a plea offer was made and was rejected. So... 3 THE COURT: All right. And you passed the plea offer 14:34:28 along to your client, correct? 5 MR. CHERNOFF: We have. We have. 14:34:33 6 THE COURT: Very good. All right. So we've got a 14:34:35 7 trial date and a jury selection date. We're good. 8 MR. CHERNOFF: Thank you, Judge. 14:34:45 9 MR. BENNETT: And as far as that other motion, 14:34:4710 11 Your Honor, just ask for it to be withdrawn as moot because I'm 12 not seeking to introduce those documents. 14:34:5413 THE COURT: Yes. 14:34:5614 MR. BENNETT: Or denied as moot. 14:34:5715 THE COURT: Yes. That avoided one issue. Thank you 16 for that. 14:35:0117 Okay. Do you want these -- no, I've got them. Here 18 are the exhibits, too. 14:35:0819 Do you want your Texas statute back? 14:35:1020 MR. LANDERS: Sure. Unless you want it, Judge. 14:35:1221 THE COURT: It's all right. 14:35:1422 Thank you very much. 14:35:1523 MR. BENNETT: Thank you, Your Honor. THE COURT: You are all excused. 14:35:1624 (Proceedings concluded at 2:35 p.m.) 14:35:1725

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3	from the record of proceedings in the above matter.
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7	Signature of Court Reporter
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